

LAW REFORM WAVE REACHES VIRGINIA

It Is Keynote of State Bar Association's Meeting.

CALL IS SOUNDED FOR GREAT WORK

Resolutions in Behalf of Three Great Remedial Measures Adopted, and Task of Future Will Be to Simplify Procedure, Making Litigation Less Cumbersome.

(Special from a Staff Correspondent.) Hot Springs, Va., August 10.—Over the nation the wave of law reform is irresistibly spreading, and it has reached Virginia. Revision of the law so as to make its procedure simpler, its workings more just and less discriminatory, the cost of litigation reduced from excess to reasonableness—this is to be in the future the supreme policy of the Virginia State Bar Association.

Law reform was the keynote of the twenty-third annual session of that body, which closed this morning. That it will be the chief business of the association hereafter was evident from the many things that were said in debate. John B. Minor, of Richmond, sounded the call for this work in his work as secretary, when he said that the association should discuss and recommend more legal remedial measures, and that if such recommendations were made after careful deliberation, the General Assembly would adopt them and not disregard them in some instances, as has been the case in the past.

Reforms Recommended.
Three far-reaching reforms were recommended to the General Assembly at this meeting. These were the reduction of the fee compensation of the clerks of the Supreme Court of Appeals to a salary basis, the use of typewritten, instead of printed, court records in appeal cases, where the cost of printing would be too great; and the creation of official experts to testify in criminal insanity and other cases.

All three of these reforms, if adopted by the General Assembly, will tremendously lower the cost of litigation, make for the securing of real justice, cause the poor litigant to receive a square deal from the law, and minimize popular dissatisfaction with the law's methods and results.

S. S. P. Patterson and Hill Montague, of Richmond, and Judge A. A. Phlegar, of Bristol, were to-day appointed committee to urge upon the General Assembly the adoption of the association's recommendations concerning the compensation of the clerks of the Supreme Court of Appeals and the use of typewritten records.

If the General Assembly shall write these requests into law, the opening wedge of the general attack on the whole fee system will have been made, and the beginning of the greatest law reform in Virginia since the adoption of the new Constitution, the emancipation of the fee system, will have been accomplished.

While not as much constructive work was done as might have been, the general sentiment is that the next session will mark an epoch in the history of the association.

Rosewell Page, of Hanover, chairman of the House Committee on Courts of Justice, S. S. P. Patterson, of Richmond, Judge R. W. Duke, of Charlottesville, Professor Raleigh C. Minor, of the University of Virginia, Walter H. Taylor, of Norfolk, Hill Montague, of Richmond, and others took no uncertain stand in advocating sweeping reforms in the law, both in substantive law and in court procedure and practice.

Attempt Utopian.
While the association rejected the proposition to participate in an effort to make the pleading and practice of all the States of the Union uniform, the reason for this rejection was a belief that such a thing is Utopian. On account of the absence of most of the members of the committee on Legislature and law reform, the report drafted by Lewis H. Machen, of Alexandria, was not presented, though form may later be printed in an abridged form. Besides this, when there are on this committee John G. Gordon, of S. S. P. Patterson, Hill Montague, of Lovingson. When this report is acted on at the next meeting it probably will result in the recommendation of a hundred or more changes for the better in the statutes of the Commonwealth.

The chief address of this year's meeting was delivered this morning by Helm Bruce, of Louisville, on "A Permanent International Court." As a prelude to his address he paid eloquent tribute to the Old Dominion, saying that "as the fragrance of a flower suggests a loved one, so the name of Virginia suggests to me noble respect for the rights of man's high ideals, culture, love of State and country, civility to all, especially to women."

Bruce's father, Judge Henry Bruce, was a member of the Confederate Congress, and as a child-in-arm his son was in Richmond in war times.

POWER OF LORDS HAS BEEN CURBED

Peers "Drink the Hemlock" Prepared by Government.

VICTORY WON BY NARROW MARGIN

Vote Stands 131 to 114, the "Die-Hards" Mustering Unexpected Strength—This Greatest Humiliation of Peers Is Witnessed by Notable Throng in Galleries.

London, August 10.—Premier Asquith's government, which claims to represent the democracy of Great Britain, to-night enforced its will upon the peerage by the narrow vote of 131 to 114. By this vote the House of Lords decided to accept what the Liberals contend is the will of the people, and adopted Viscount Morley's motion not to insist upon the Lords' amendment to the parliamentary bill, which practically limits the power of the House of Lords to a two years' suspensory veto and vastly increases the prerogatives of the House of Commons.

Great Struggle Ended.
The great constitutional struggle, which began when the House of Lords nearly two years ago rejected the budget of David Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is ended for a time at least, and with the greatest change to Great Britain's working constitution since the passage of the reform bill.

The process of voting consumed nearly an hour and the result trembled in the balance until the last moment. The "die-hards" mustered greater strength than was anticipated, and the government owes its victory to the votes of between twenty and thirty Conservatives who threw in their lot with the Liberals to save their own caste from loss of prestige, and the King from the necessity of exercising the royal prerogative for the location of a large number of new peers which every one believes he was extremely anxious to be saved.

It was noticeable that the highest ranks of the nobility furnished the fewest supporters of the government. "Drinking the hemlock" had become a historic phrase in past months, and the gathering in the ancient chamber to-night to witness this memorable humiliation was worthy of the occasion. Peers, ambassadors and commoners packed the galleries.

A resolution to pay members of the House of Commons £2,000 per annum for their services offered by Chancellor David Lloyd-George, was carried by a vote of 255 to 159.

The chancellor said that Great Britain was the only country in the world that did not pay members for their services in Parliament, which now was so strenuous that its members had little time to attend to anything else.

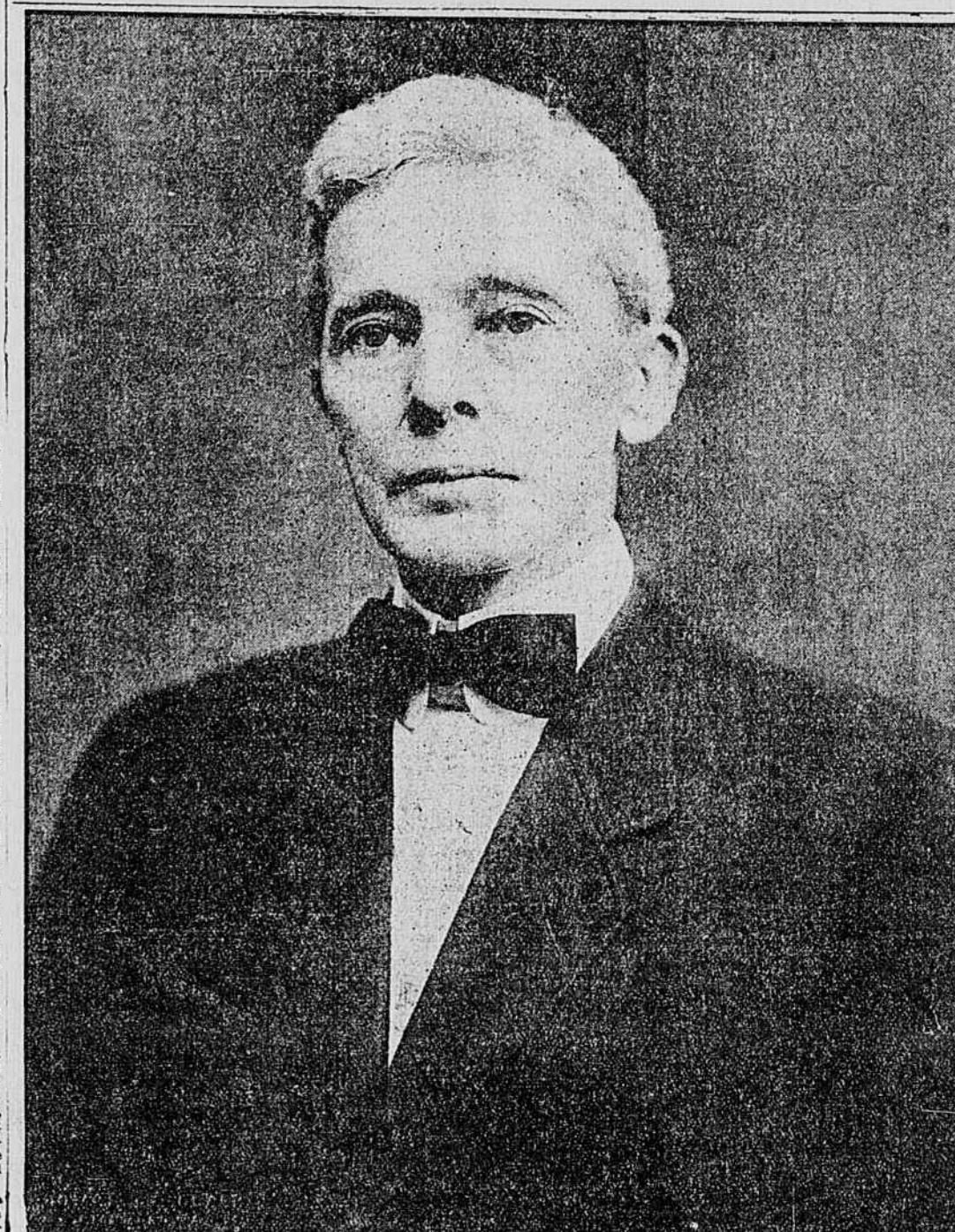
Oppose Payment Plan.
The Unionists opposed the payment plan on the ground that it would be a violation of the principle of gratuitous public service as well as improper for members to vote themselves salaries.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Lee, speaking in the House of Commons to-day, said this would be a black day in England's history if the House of Lords accepted the veto bill and the House of Commons cut adrift from the traditions of centuries to bestow salaries upon its members. Apparently, the sentiment of the peers was in full accord with this description of the occasion.

As soon as the result was known several members of the House of Commons rushed from the galleries and into their own chamber and whispered the news to the members. A great cheer followed the announcement of the government's victory. If of what effect to-night's decision will have upon the future fortunes of the Conservative party, Viscount Morley's definite announcement that enough peers were to be created permanently to swamp the upper house if the government did not prevail apparently swayed a few waverers and decided the issue.

Will Be Buried in Memphis
Funeral Services Over Body of General Gordon To-Morrow.

HEARTBROKEN FATHER GAMELY STANDS BY SON WHOM PUBLIC BRANDS AS BRUTAL MURDERER



HENRY C. BEATTIE, Sr.

—Photo by Homeier & Clark.

WOULD 'INTERESTS' PERMIT CHANGE?

Do Not Want People to Elect Members of Corporation Commission.

PUBLIC MUST BE AROUSED

Westmoreland Davis Gives Further Word of Warning and Advice to Farmers.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent.) Staunton, Va., August 10.—Amplifying the views outlined in his annual address yesterday in regard to the election of members of the State Corporation Commission by popular vote, President Westmoreland Davis, of the Virginia Farmers' Institute, in an interview for The Times-Dispatch to-day said:

"While I would hesitate greatly to criticize the splendid work of the last Constitutional Convention, the members of which are appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, a grave mistake was made. Indeed, I am satisfied that the convention had doubts on the subject, since it provided for their election under certain conditions after January, 1905. It is extremely doubtful whether the Legislature, usually dominated by the 'interests,' would enact a bill placing the election of members of the Corporation Commission directly in the hands of the people, whose rights the commission is designed to protect, unless great pressure of an aroused public sentiment is brought to bear. Adverse interests would no doubt muster their full strength to defeat such a measure."

"It is not my purpose in this discussion to criticize or reflect on the present members of the Corporation Commission. I am convinced that the people can be trusted to elect future members, and I was glad to hear Governor Mann say yesterday that he had once voted for a bill to that effect."

Eligible for Re-election.
"Not only should the commissioners be elected, but they should be entitled to re-election, for the expiration of their terms of office to offer for re-election."

WILL NOT FOLLOW SENATOR MARTIN

Many Refuse to Attack Taft's Veto of Statehood Bill.

VIRGINIA POLITICS FELT

Washington Hears That Senatorial Fight Is Back of Vote in Upper Branch.

Washington, August 10.—President Taft's personal friends in the Senate and House will rally to support him in a veto of the statehood bill as it has passed Congress. That fact became known to-day from congressional circles at the executive offices. President Taft did not solicit any of this offered support, his view being that the statehood proposition is not a party question, but it is understood that he appreciated the warm loyalty shown to him by callers who broadly expressed their views.

For the first time since the beginning of all sorts of talk about passing bills over the veto of the President a grim determination on the part of the President's friends was evident in their announcement that they do not propose to let any proposition to override a veto of Mr. Taft go without a hard fight from start to finish.

Leaders Declare Themselves.
Republican regular leaders like Senator Crane, of Massachusetts, and Representative Dwight, of the House, exhibited warmth in their declarations that the President is to be upheld in Senate and House and they stated that the President's friends will stand by him independent of party affiliation.

Senator Crane made the flat prediction that the Senate Democrats will not be able to command the full support of their party when it comes to a showdown on a question of supporting the President on the statehood proposition, while Representative Dwight went farther and said: "We do not propose to let any attempt at making laws over the head of the President go through without a fight. That might as well be understood now as at any other time. This statehood matter is not political in itself, but this overriding of the President is intended to make politics against him and humiliate him before the country. Under these circumstances, his friends, inside and outside of the party, will rally to him."

Representative Crumpacker, another Republican leader, made a similar declaration, and both men returned to the

LIQUOR WILL NOT BE LOCAL ISSUE

Nearly All Candidates for Legislature Oppose Prohibition Program.

ASKED TO STATE POSITION

They Oppose Referendum and Anti-Jug Bill as Undemocratic Doctrine.

Answers received from candidates for the General Assembly from Richmond to questions propounding the existing platform of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia, indicate that with possibly one exception the league will find no one to support its views. Those who have already replied declare emphatically that they will neither support a bill referring the question of State prohibition to the people, nor will they, if elected, vote for a bill prohibiting the intrastate shipment of intoxicating liquor into "dry" territory.

Others when asked about their position, also express their opposition to the two propositions, although they have not as yet made formal reply. The position of the remaining candidates is regarded as too well known to need specific relation, with the one exception of M. A. Campbell, of Washington Ward, who is understood to favor the principles of the league.

Will Not Be Issue.
With the various candidates lined up on the liquor question in opposition to the platform of the Anti-Saloon League, the "dry" element, it is presumed, will divide its votes on other issues, since it would appear to have no choice. The prohibition vote in Richmond is estimated to be about 1,100.

The questions referred to are not asked by the league or by any of its officials. They are, however, identical with the platform as adopted at the last annual convention at Newport News in February, and are the queries which the convention decreed should be asked of applicants for the General Assembly this year. The names appended to the questions are those of citizens who, says their leader, S. L. Ledman, merely agreed to try to secure an expression of opinion, and have no actual connection with the Anti-Saloon League.

Candidates' Position.
Senator E. C. Polkes, who has no opposition for re-election; Edwin P. Cox and D. L. Toney, aspirants for the House, all say emphatically that they oppose both the referendum and the

Though State's Evidence May Be Strong and Overwhelming, Henry Beattie, Sr., Refuses to Believe in His Boy's Guilt.

PATERNAL LOVE NOT SHAKEN BY MASS OF CRUEL EVIDENCE

Convinced That Prisoner Is Unjustly Accused, Gray-Haired Father Feels Called Upon to Speak in His Defense—Bares Secrets of His Life So Those Who Cry for Vengeance May Understand That Ghastly Charge Is Beyond Belief.

BY R. W. SIMPSON.

Heartbroken, but steadfast in the undying certainty of his boy's innocence, Henry C. Beattie, Sr., unfolded last night a story of that same boy's life which makes the charge against him unbelievable.

"I don't care how strong this evidence of the Commonwealth may appear," he said, as his eyes filled quickly with tears, "I can no more believe in his guilt than I can believe that I will be stricken dead at this very moment."

Calmly, then, without passion, without feeling except that of utter grief, he went back to the time of his boy's birth, describing his habits, his gradual development into manhood, his work, his loyalty to father and home, concealing nothing and without attempt to paint a halo about his head. It was simply an old man's word for his child.

For two hours while I sat with him in his library last night, not once was his voice raised in anger.

Cut by Public's View of His Son's Cruelty.

"So many cruel things have been said and printed about Henry Clay," he remarked, "that you can't understand how it hurts, you can't realize how it cuts into the heart. Because he is my boy does not mean that he is perfect. But he is misrepresented. They have called him a spendthrift, a term which no more fits him than it would the thriftiest man that ever lived. Why, years ago, when he was attending McGuire's University School, he sought and secured employment during the vacation season. When I asked him if he did not want to take a course in higher education, he told me that he was determined to become a business man, that he believed the practical experience he would get in the next three years would better equip him for a business career. He has been in the store with me for eight years now, and he was prepared to carry it on if I should be forced to drop out. Why, when he decided to buy an automobile with his own money, he would not do that until he had consulted me. We were very close together."

Regardless of what opinions they may have formed of the murder, the people of South Richmond, where Mr. Beattie has lived for years, cannot think of it without the utmost sympathy and pity for the gray-haired man. Indeed, those nearest him will not discuss it; it hurts too much to think of all that has come about in these exciting weeks. And they know that the son in jail grieves most because of those tears which fall continually upon the grizzled cheek of one at home.

Out of a sense of common decency, no effort has been made by this newspaper heretofore to have Mr. Beattie discuss a tragedy which he can never forget. But out of a sense of justice he was asked if there was not some word he wished to speak on behalf of the child who bears his name. There was no desire to invade the privacy of his home, no desire to have him take up or contradict that wealth of evidence which has been sent broadcast—which has pictured Henry Clay as a cruel, a deliberate, a ghastly murderer. The old man knows that the public has rendered its verdict; unhappily, he knows the verdict. But it has not swayed him one iota from the view formed long ago.

Declares That Henry Made Only One Statement in Jail.
"I hate to think of it," he said, "and yet I can think of nothing else. I hate to speak of it, yet I feel that I would not be loyal to my son unless I did. And so many, many cruel things have gone forth. Take, for instance, the statements and interviews credited to him. He said that if the detectives would endeavor to find the real murderer with the same amount of zeal with which they had endeavored to fasten the crime on him, his name would soon be cleared. He said that after he had been placed in the county jail, with the brand of the coroner's verdict upon his brow, and that was the only statement he has made. Why, some of them have put words in my mouth I could not utter, but I could not deny it and have the public feel that I doubted his innocence. I have tried not to read the newspapers. But I have no feeling of resentment toward them."

Once in the midst of the talk Mr. Beattie was interrupted by a telephone call, but he came back and picked up the thread where it had been dropped. "Henry Clay," said Mr. Beattie, "is twenty-six years old. Fifteen months after he was born we were blessed with twins—two little girls—and any mother can understand the care and attention they received. Naturally, in this circumstance, I began to look after Henry with more interest. I watched him grow up, played with him, and was the one upon whom he mostly leaned. That companionship broadened as he became older. He was fond of outdoor life. He loved his little friends."

Four Years of Grief That He Can Never Forget.
"When he was thirteen years old there came upon me four of the most heart-breaking years that any man ever had to face. In that period the twins, my wife and my sister died. I was forced to move in from 'Dundee,' which I built, so as to give my business closer attention. In those days of grief I had Henry. He was not a bad or a vicious boy. We got to be mighty good friends. He loved to go with the girls and boys; he was what you might call an outdoor boy, fond of that kind of life. He had one of the best bicycles, and then later on he wanted a motor car, but he wouldn't buy it—with his own savings—without my approval."

"When he went into the store eight years ago he immediately took a firm grip on the business situation there. Up to the time that I went to the hospital, a year and a half ago, I had been in the habit of going down every morning to open my store. Henry Clay took that off my shoulders then, and has opened the store ever since. I can best explain how close we were by the statement that we always went back and forth together. He gave very strict attention to the business, gradually dropping in the buying. I always found that while he took a general interest in everything, he gave his time and energy to the shoe and gentlemen's furnishing departments, which were directly under his control. There was never any question as to salary, for, as I explained to him, he would come in eventually for a large individual share of the business, and I thought it best to invest the profits rather than pay him big wages, which would be put in the bank, instead of a growing concern of which we were the owners. This was thoroughly satisfactory to him, and the salary question was never mentioned again. While I was not what you might call a rich man, I made it a point to give the boys a certain amount of spending money every week, and though I never asked what was done with it, I impressed upon them the importance of living uprightly, remembering always who they were."

Tells How He Was Crushed by Girl and Henry.
"There was, of course, one incident in his life which hurt me, as it would have hurt any father, yet I realized that Henry was not unlike many other young men in this day and time. But I must say this: Henry was frank with me at all times. The idea that he was afraid of me is preposterous when you come to know how freely we had mingled, how companionable we had always been. In his dealings with me he was absolutely truthful. If I asked him a question which a boy might hesitate in answering to his father, he came out like a man. He never to my knowledge told me a lie. I can say that truthfulness was his strong characteristic as a boy and man. His friends and business associates knew this, and have often remarked upon it."

As he related incident after incident, Mr. Beattie's strong, honest face had stamped upon it the marks of unutterable woe. Sometimes, knowing that a tale